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Message Text

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72
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /166 W
---------- 009050
R 040904Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4317
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USINT DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS LAGOS 4876

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, NI, US, XF
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN PRESS REACTION TO
ISRAELI-SYRIAN ACCORD

1. NIGERIAN PRESS REACTION TO ISRAELI-SYRIAN ACCORD HAS BEEN MIXED. WHILE HAILING SIGNATURE, FIVE PAPERS TO EDITORIALIZE THUS FAR HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT DISENGAGEMENT IS ONLY ONE STEP ON LONG ROAD TO LASTING MIDEAST PEACE AND HAVE URGED PROMPT CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE TO SEEK PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

2. SECRETARY KISSINGERS PERSONAL ROLE DREW UNSTINTED PRAISE FROM THREE PAPERSAND QUALIFIED APPROVAL FORM FOURTH, BUT WAS VIRTUALLY IGNORED IN TART COMMENT BY NORTHERN-STATES-OWNED NEW NIGERIA. LAST-NAMED CHARGED THAT ISRAEL "ABLE TO DEFY WORLD PUBLIC OPINION"
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ONLY BECAUSE OF US SUPPORT, AND ARGUED THAT SOLUTION

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LIES NOT IN "SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY" BUT IN "SINCERE AMERICAN CHANGE OF ATTITUDE" MARKED BY HALT IN US ARMS SUPPLIES TO ISRAEL. INDEPENDENT DAILY TIMES CALLED SECRETARY "EXPERT IN RESOLVING CONFLICTS" AND SAID "IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO UNDERESTIMATE HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE MEASURE OF PEACE AND STABILITY WHICH THE REGION NOW ENJOYS," BUT ADDED GRATUITOUS REMINDER THAT HE "WAS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN PROMOTING HIS COUNTRYS INTEREST IN THE MIDEAST."

3. IN MORE POSTIVE VEIN, SKETCH AND TRIBUNE (BOTH IBADAN-BASED) MORE GENEROUS IN THEIR APPRAISAL, WITH FORMER HAILING "EXCELLENT CAPABILITIES TO INSPIRE CONFIDENCE" OF "INDEFATIGABLE KISSINGER" AND LATTER OFFERING "PAT ON THE BACK" TO SECRETARY " AND OTHER ARBITERS." WEST AFRICAN PILOT (LAGOS) WAS MOST UN-STINTING IN ITS PRAISE, DESCRIBING SECRETARY AS "INSTRUMENT OF PEACE" USED BY GOD AND ADDING THAT "974 CREDITS MUST GO TO DR. KISSINGER AND PRAY THAT GOD MAY GUIDE HIM."

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL REACTION FROM FMG. REINHARDT

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NNN

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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